



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.3760 | FAX (517) 373.8661

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Contact: John Lazet
Phone: (517) 373-3760

Tougher Fines for Methamphetamine Producers

Legislation would help protect public health and safety

LANSING — Fines and penalties in Michigan would increase for people who participate in the production of methamphetamine under a package of seven bills passed today in the Senate.

“When people think of drug labs, they don’t think rural communities could house them, but unfortunately that’s the case today,” Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, said. “This legislation cracks down on operators of meth labs and ensures that if labs are found the site is checked for environmental pollution.”

Methamphetamine is a growing concern throughout Michigan with clandestine labs being found in rural and city areas, barns, garages, apartments, storage areas and vehicles. The production of methamphetamine can cause serious environmental risks since the toxic waste produced is often dumped in public sewer systems or directly on the ground.

In addition, production of meth can result in fires or explosions, injuring or killing law enforcement agents and fire personnel who respond to the scene of a meth lab.

The package of bills includes provisions that:

- Prohibit the possession of more than 12 grams of pseudoephedrine (with the exception of pediatric products), a chemical used in the production of methamphetamine;
- Increase to 20 years imprisonment the maximum penalty for those owning or possessing the chemicals or equipment with the intent of manufacturing methamphetamine;
- Create a new crime with a maximum penalty of four years imprisonment for people who transport anhydrous ammonia in illegal containers;
- Require inspection of property used as a clandestine lab for the production of methamphetamine to determine if there is contamination, and require public warnings if any is discovered.

(More)

“I’m hopeful that the House of Representatives will address the problem of methamphetamine quickly to stop this epidemic that’s spreading across Michigan,” Cropsey said.

Senate Bills 648-652, 698 and 777 now go to the House for consideration.

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An audio recording of Sen. Cropsey commenting on passage is available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at senate.michigan.gov/gop or by calling the radio hotline at (517) 373-4000.